BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Issue: 00-25 7 Pages
June 23, 2000

highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Population

- **During the first quarter of this year, BC gained a total of 6,497 people as a result of net migration from all sources**. This compares to an increase of 3,104 in the first quarter of 1999. There was a net outflow of 3,215 people from BC to the rest of Canada, with a net loss of 2,553 people to Alberta and 662 to Ontario. Atlantic Canada (309) and Manitoba (190) also drew more people from BC than they lost to this province during the first quarter. Although the outflow of people from BC to other provinces was smaller than at the beginning of last year, interprovincial migration to BC has fallen off after showing signs of a recovery in the second half of 1999.

  Net international migration to the province increased by 23% from the first quarter of 1999, with a net inflow of 9,712 people. An unusually large increase in the number of non-permanent residents (e.g., foreign students living in the province on a temporary basis) was responsible for much of the increase. *Source: BC STATS*

- **On a seasonally adjusted basis, net migration from all sources fell 29% between the fourth and first quarters, after increasing for five consecutive quarters.** Lower net interprovincial migration was the main contributor to the weakness. *Source: BC STATS*

- **BC's population stood at 4.052 million on April 1st, up 0.9% from a year earlier.** Alberta (+1.4%), Ontario (+1.3%) and PEI (+1.1%) all experienced faster population growth. Canada's population also grew 0.9% during this period, increasing to 30.7 million. *Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Exports of BC products were 9.0% higher this April than in the same month last year.** Strong international shipments of industrial goods (+26.1%) and machinery and equipment (+8.8%) helped boost BC's overall export performance in April. Forest product exports were up a relatively modest 7.3%, well below the increases seen during most of the last year.

  Canadian exports rose 12.5%, reflecting gains in every province. Newfoundland led the country, with exports more than doubling (+114.4%), largely due to offshore oil production and rising petroleum prices. Energy-rich Alberta saw exports soar 58.8%, as international shipments of energy products from that province nearly doubled (+82.3%) in value, increasing to $2.2 billion. This was just slightly less than the total value of industrial goods exported from Ontario ($2.3 billion) in that month. BC's exports of all goods totalled $2.6 billion in April. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Retail sales in the province edged up 0.2% (seasonally adjusted) between March and April.** The modest increase was the third in as many months, suggesting that retail sales in the province may be starting to stabilize after seesawing up and down during the last two years. Nationally, sales fell 1.2% in April. Retailers in most parts of the country did not fare particularly well. PEI (+2.9%), Alberta (+0.9%) and Yukon (+0.7%) were the only regions where sales advanced significantly. Canadian clothing (-3.2%) and automotive (-3.4%) retailers were most affected by the slowdown, but sales at other stores (the retail group including lawn and garden centres, hardware stores and sporting goods stores) were also down (-0.9%) in April. Cool spring

Report Socioeconomic Indicators

Did you know...

Canadians used their cars for 92% of the 145.4 million trips they took inside Canada in 1999. Those who didn't drive were nearly twice as likely to fly (6.1 million trips) as to travel by bus (3.8 million). Trains, boats and other means of transportation were used on 1.9 million trips.

weather may have been a factor.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Wholesale sales in BC fell 0.6% (seasonally adjusted) in April after advancing 2.2% in the previous month.** Canadian sales were flat (-0.2%) after posting a healthy 2.0% gain in March. Building suppliers continued to feel the crunch, as sales of lumber and building materials (-8.5%) fell sharply. Wholesalers of metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies (-3.4%) were also affected by softer demand for their products and farm machinery and equipment sales were off 5.4%. A brisk trade in consumer products such as computers and software (+4.2%) and household goods (+2.8%) helped offset this weakness. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of regular employment insurance (EI) recipients in British Columbia fell 2.0% (seasonally adjusted) between March and April.** There were 51,460 people receiving regular benefits in April. Nationally, the number of beneficiaries was down 1.3%, falling to 465,470 as the number of people receiving EI benefits declined in all but three regions. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Alcohol Sales

- **British Columbians don't seem to be drowning their sorrows in drink quite as much as they used to–or perhaps they're making more home brews.** Last year, per capita sales of alcoholic beverages by liquor stores, wineries and breweries in BC slipped 1.6%, to 101.8 litres per person, just below the national average of 102.6 litres. Beer continued to dominate the market (81.0 litres), followed by wine (13.8 litres) and spirits (7.0 litres). Joe Canadian guzzled 85.3 litres of beer in 1999, most (93%) of it made in Canada. He also purchased 11.2 litres of wine and 6.1 litres of spirits.

  Among the regions, alcohol sales were highest in Yukon, at 173.8 litres per person aged 15 and over. Albertans (111.5 litres) and Quebecers (111.1 litres) were next on the list in terms of per capita sales. Per capita alcohol sales were lowest in Saskatchewan (85.5 litres). *Source: SC, The Daily*

The Importance of Nature to Canadians

- **In 1996, 20 million Canadians spent $11.0 billion pursing nature-related activities on special trips or around their homes.** Of this total, $7.2 billion was spent on outdoor activities in forests, water bodies and other areas, $1.3 billion on wildlife viewing, $1.9 billion for recreational fishing, and more than $800 million on hunting. Another $1.2 billion of their spending represented activities such as contributions to nature and conservation organizations. BC residents spent $1.9 billion on nature-related activities in 1996, most ($1.3 billion) of it on outdoor activities. *Source: Environment Canada*
  The Importance of Nature to Canadians

- **Per capita spending by BC residents who participated in outdoor nature-related activities was the second highest in the country, at $902 in 1996**. Spending was lowest in Atlantic Canada and Quebec, and increased steadily moving from east to west across the country. People who lived in Yukon had the highest expenditures ($1,298 per participant). The Canadian average was $704 per person.

  Spending on wildlife viewing averaged $420 per participant in BC, and $297 nationally. Over half of this money was used to purchase binoculars or recording equipment. Recreational fishing cost an average $462 per person nationally. Anglers from Manitoba ($762), Saskatchewan ($557) and BC ($545) had the highest per capita expenditures in the country. Hunting enthusiasts in BC ($1,017), Yukon ($901) and Alberta ($843) also spent considerably more than the Canadian average of $692 on their sport. *Source: Environment Canada*
  The Importance of Nature to Canadians

Tourism

- **Canadians made 56.2 million pleasure trips in 1999, accounting for 39% of all domestic travel.** Another 51.1 million trips (35%) were taken to visit friends and relatives. Canadians spent an estimated $19.8 billion travelling inside the country last year, 41% of which was for food and accommodation. *Source: SC, The Daily*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number.

Regional District 21
Nanaimo Statistical Profile

	1999 POPULATION		1996 LAND AREA		POPULATION DENSITY
Major Cities	Number	% of Region	Sq. Km.	% of Region	Persons per Sq Km.
Nanaimo	76,173	57.1%	88.2	4.3%	863.7
Parksville	10,358	7.8%	15.9	0.8%	650.2
Qualicum Beach	7,390	5.5%	11.1	0.5%	663.4
Rest of Region	39,483	29.6%	1,926.1	94.4%	20.5
Total Region	**133,404**	**100.0%**	**2,041.3**	**100.0%**	**65.4**
Total BC	4,029,253		892,677		4.5
Region as % of BC	**3.3%**		**0.2%**		

23/06/00

Prepared By: BC STATS

Nanaimo Regional District

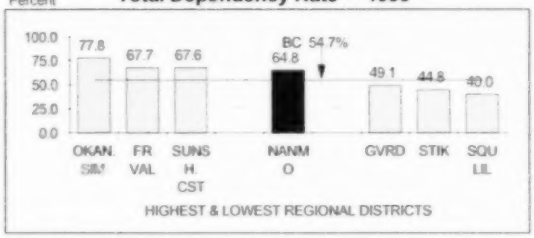
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

AGE STRUCTURE

	Population NANMO 1999	Percent Distribution NANMO 1999	NANMO 2009	B.C. 1999	B.C. 2009
0-17 years	28,853	21.7	18.0	22.5	19.2
18-24 years	11,080	8.3	8.8	9.2	9.3
25-64 years	69,733	52.4	54.6	55.4	57.4
65+ years	23,532	17.7	18.6	12.9	14.1
Total	**133,198**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Dependency Rate (%)					
Child		35.7	28.4	34.8	28.8
Elderly		29.1	29.3	20.0	21.1
Total		**64.8**	**57.7**	**54.7**	**49.9**

Percent

Total Dependency Rate - 1999



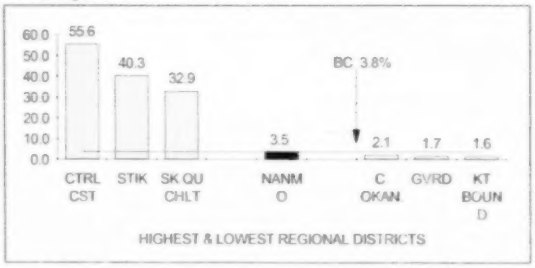
Note: Child Dependency = Pop(0-17) / Pop(18-64)
Elderly Dependency = Pop(65+) / Pop(18-64)

ETHNIC IDENTITY

	Population 1996 NANMO	Percent Distribution NANMO	B.C.
Visible Minorities	6,175	5.1	17.9
Single Origins	6,100	5.0	17.6
Chinese	1,355	1.1	8.1
South Asian	1,700	1.4	4.3
Filipino	480	0.4	1.3
Japanese	480	0.4	0.8
Other	2,085	1.7	3.1
Multiple Origins	75	0.1	0.3
Aboriginal People	**4,230**	**3.5**	**3.8**
Rest of Population	110,385	91.4	78.3
Total	120,790	100.0	100.0

Percent of Region

Aboriginal Identity - 1996

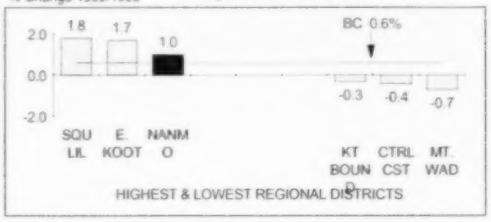


POPULATION GROWTH

	NANMO	B.C.
Annual Average Percent Change to 1999		
Last year	**1.0**	**0.6**
Last 5 years	2.3	1.9
Last 10 years	4.4	2.6

% Change 1999/1998

Population Growth

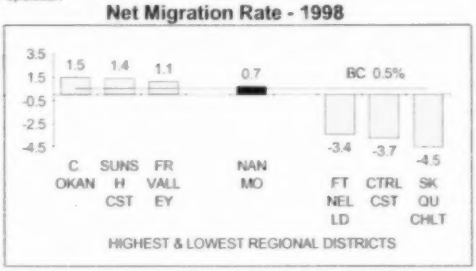


MIGRATION

Net Migration Rate	Percent of Population NANMO	B.C.
Total all Ages		
1998	**0.7**	**0.5**
5 year Average	2.1	1.5
0-17 years		
1998	0.3	0.5
5 year Average	2.0	1.5
18-24 years		
1998	-3.0	0.6
5 year Average	0.3	2.6
65 years & over		
1998	0.9	-1.6
5 year Average	1.2	-0.3

% of Total Population

Net Migration Rate - 1998



Note: Includes inter-provincial, intra-provincial, & international migration

FAMILY STRUCTURE

	Families 1996 NANMO	Percent Distribution NANMO	B.C.
Total Families	35,720	100.0	100.0
No Child at home	16,950	47.5	39.2
Children at home	18,770	52.5	60.8
Families with Children at Home			
Husband/Wife	13,635	72.6	77.3
Lone Parents	**5,135**	**27.4**	**22.7**
Ave. No. of Children		1.8	1.8
Unattached Individuals			
% of Adult Pop.	17,595	17.9	18.6

Prepared By: BC Stats

22/06/00

Nanaimo Regional District

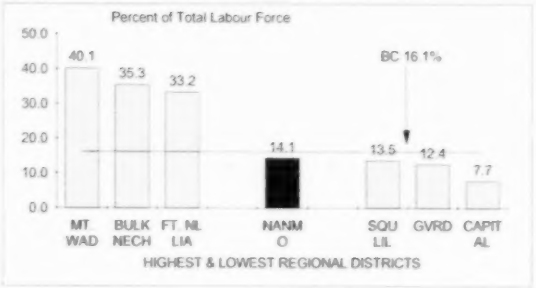
ECONOMIC PROFILE

LABOUR MARKET

Labour Force 1996		NANMO	B.C.
Participation Rate	Males	67.3	73.0
	Females	55.3	60.0
	Total	61.1	66.4
% Full Year, Full Time Workers		41.9	46.4
% Self Employed		17.1	14.5
Industrial Structure (% Distribution)			
Goods	**Primary**	**6.1**	**5.7**
	Manufacturing	**8.0**	**10.4**
	Construction	10.4	7.5
Services	Non-Government	69.9	70.6
	Government	5.6	5.9

Average Employment Income		
1997	26,312	30,270
1992 in 1997$	25,941	28,455
%Chg in Real Income 1997/1992	1.4	6.4

Labour Force Concentration in the Primary & Mfg Sectors 1996

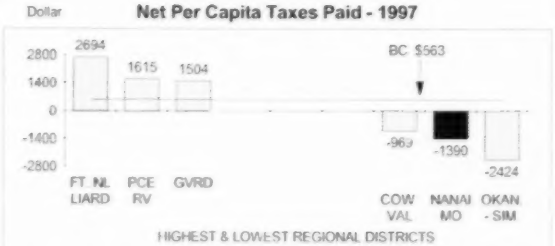


INCOME

		NANMO	B.C.
Average Family Income1995			
	Husband/Wife Families	53,795	60,612
	Female Lone Parent Families	24,424	28,448
	Incidence of Low Income in Families	**14.2%**	**15.4%**

	NANMO	B.C.
Per Capita Income1997	18,206	20,456
Per Capita Government Flows1997		
Personal Income Taxes Paid	3,147	3,817
Transfer Payments Received	4,537	3,254
Net Taxes (Taxes-Transfer Payments)	(1,390)	563

Net Per Capita Taxes Paid - 1997

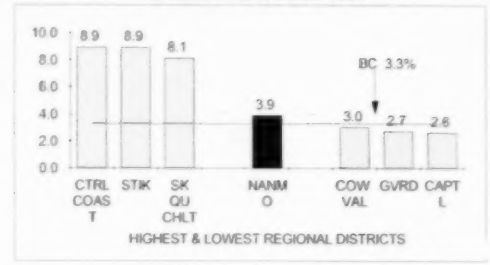


Note: Transfer payments include UI,OAS & CPP Benefits, Family Allowances, and Child Tax Credits

UNEMPLOYMENT

	NANMO	B.C.
Employment Insurance Beneficianes Dec 1999		
Total Beneficiaries 19-64 Years of Age	3,059	85,334
Percent Female	43.4	47.7
Percent 19-24 Years Old	11.0	12.1
Total Beneficianes as a Percent of Population 19-64		
Dec /99	3.9	3.3
Sept /99	3.0	2.8
June /99	3.1	2.9
Mar /99	4.6	4.1
Dec /98	4.7	3.9
Most recent 4 quarter average	**3.7**	**3.3**

EI Beneficiaries Dec 1999

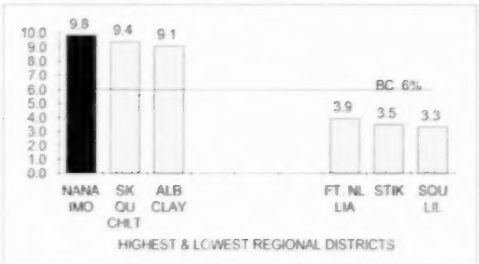


BASIC BC BENEFITS

	Caseload	Percent of Caseload That Are: Long Term (>1yr.) NANMO	Long Term (>1yr.) B.C.	Single Parents NANMO	Single Parents B.C.
Caseload Dec 1999	5,958	57.8	56.3	30.1	32.0

		NANMO	B.C.
% of Population < 65 Receiving Basic BC Benefits			
	Dec 1999	**9.8**	**6.0**
	Year Ago	10.5	6.5
% of Children Receiving Basic BC Benefits			
(< 19 Years)	Dec 1999	13.5	8.6
	Year Ago	14.4	9.2
% of Young Adults Receiving Basic BC Benefits			
(19 - 24 Years)	Dec 1999	14.2	6.8
	Year Ago	15.4	7.5

Basic BC Benefits Recipients Dec 1999



Note: Excludes Aboriginal people living on reserve

Nanaimo Regional District

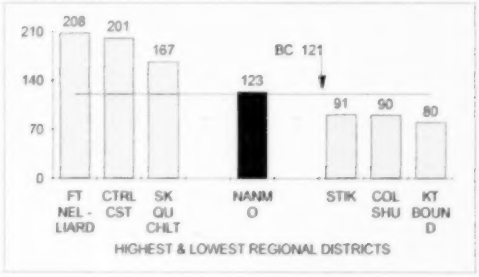
SOCIAL PROFILE

CRIME

	1998		5 Yr. Percent Change	
	NANMO	B.C.	NANMO	B.C.
Crime Rate				
Persons	12	13	-20.9	-11.2
Property	66	72	-30.4	-15.9
Total	**123**	**121**	**-28.1**	**-16.6**
Offences per Police Officer	110	91		
Population per Police Officer	901	753		

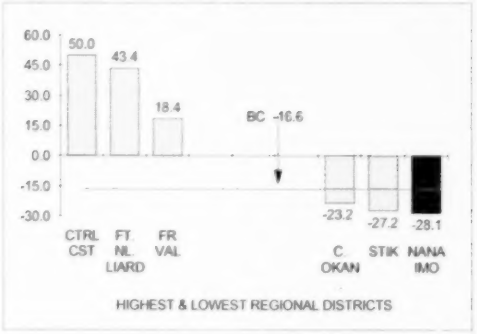
Criminal Code Offences per 1000 Population

Crime Rate - 1998



% Change 1998/1993

Change in Crime Rate



Crime Rate = # Criminal Code Offences (excluding Traffic) per 1000 Population

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

April 1/98 to March 31/99	NANMO	B.C.
19 Yrs of Age and Over		
Per Capita Dollars Spent on Alcohol	396	391
Per Capita Alcohol Consumption (litres)	56	57
% Distribution of Litres Sold		
Spirits	12.6	10.9
Wine	18.9	17.5
Beer/Cider	68.5	71.6

EDUCATION

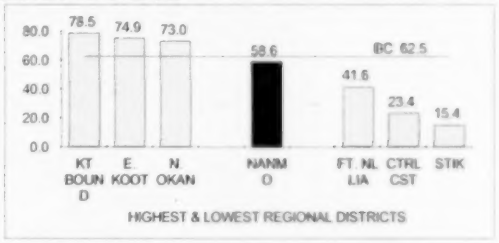
Highest Education Completed of Population 15 Years & Over	Percent Distribution 1996 NANMO	B.C.
High School Not Completed	31.9	31.1
High School Completed	24.9	26.0
College/Trades Cert/Diploma	33.7	29.4
University Degree/Diploma	9.5	13.6
Total	100.0	100.1

	1999		5 Yr Avg to 1999	
	NANMO	B.C.	NANMO	B.C.
High School Graduates*				
Ratio to Population Age 18	61.7	67.3	58.6	62.5

School Attendance of 15-24 Year Olds - 1996	NANMO	B.C.
Population 15-24	14,005	483,060
% Attending School Full-Time	**49.4**	**52.2**

% of Graduates to 18 Year Olds - 5 Year Avg to 1999

Graduates as a % of 18 Year Olds



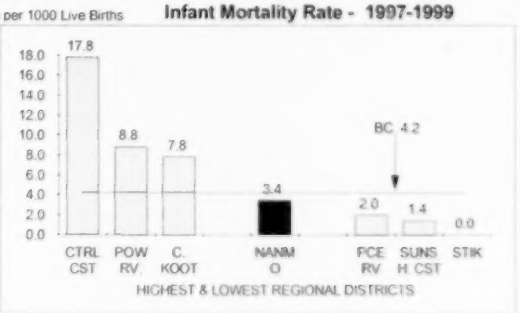
* Data does not include graduates from private institutions

HEALTH

		NANMO	B.C.
1994-1998	Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) (per 1,000 population)		
	Natural Causes - Total	39.6	38.4
	Suicide/Homicide - Total	6.2	5.7
	Accidental Causes - Males	20.7	17.8
	- Females	4.3	5.5
1997-1999			
	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	**3.4**	**4.2**
	Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000 Females 15-19)	19.0	16.7

Rate per 1000 Live Births

Infant Mortality Rate - 1997-1999



PYLL rates are age standardized rates by cause per 1,000 population aged 0-74

Prepared By: BC Stats

27/06/00

Infoline

June 23, 2000

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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/00	% change on one year ago
BC	4,043.7	0.9
Canada	30,606.7	0.9
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	1998	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	110,948	-0.2
GDP *($ 1992 millions)*	99,708	0.2
GDP *($ 1992 per Capita)*	24,908	-0.8
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1992 per Capita)*	15,969	-1.6
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Apr	3,309	10.3
Merchandise Exports (raw) Apr	2,559	9.0
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Apr	2,928	4.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
(all items - 1992=100)	May '00	% change on one year ago
BC	112.8	1.5
Canada	113.0	2.4
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	May '00	% change on one year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,095	1.4
Employed - BC	1,954	3.0
Unemployed - BC	142	-17.3
		May '99
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.8	8.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.6	7.9
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jun 21/00	Jun 23/99
Prime Business Rate	7.50	6.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	8.10	6.75
- 5 year	8.45	7.45
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jun 21/00	Jun 23/99
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.4730	1.4733
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.6788	0.6792
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	May '00	% change on one year ago
BC	635.75	2.7
Canada	611.63	3.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm

Socio-Economic Indicators

The June 2000 release of *Socio-Economic Statistical Profiles of BC Regions* provides the most current possible take on a variety of indicators. Each region is covered in a 4-page section. The Nanaimo regional district profile from the latest release is included in place of a Report in this issue of Infoline. This same area will be featured as a sample on our Web site. Follow the **News** announcement found on our home page. To order, please contact Kris Ovens at:

Tel: (250) 387-0359
FAX: (250) 387-0380
e-mail: Kris.Ovens@gems7.gov.bc.ca

British Columbia High Tech Input Indicators, the 1990's

This companion to the recently released "Profile of the British Columbia High Technology Sector" contains forty-two indicators related to the development of the high technology sector. The indicators track the performance of the education, business, government, labour, and external sectors in supplying trained personnel, financing, information, etc. in support of high technology industries in the province. For the first time, these indicators have been assembled for comparison on a consistent basis across provinces, with Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec featured along with British Columbia in the report. The "Profile" report is available now at the BC Stats web site. "Indicators" will be released June 28th Go to

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/DATA/BUS_STAT/hi_tech.htm

[continued]

Released this week by BC STATS

- Migration Highlights, First Quarter 2000

Next week

- Business Indicators, June 2000
- Current Statistics, June 2000
- Immigration Highlights, First Quarter 2000

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